

# **The Office of Space Science's Approach to Education and Outreach**

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# **OSS Education/Public Outreach Strategy & Implementation Plan: Summary**

The OSS Education/Public Outreach Strategy and Implementation Plan are directed towards:

- Embedding education and public outreach throughout all OSS missions and research programs
- Creating long-term partnerships between the space science and education communities
- Channeling individual efforts towards high leverage opportunities
- Building on and adding value to existing programs, institutions, and infrastructure
- Providing meaningful opportunities for underserved/underutilized groups to participate in the space science program
- Helping the space science community to become involved in education and outreach
- Ensuring that products and programs developed locally become national resources
- Making a significant, long-term contribution to education and the public understanding of science in the United States

## **“Education Forums” Representative Responsibilities**

- Providing a “home base” for smaller missions so that each mission does not have to create its own infrastructure;
- Playing the role of national broker/facilitator for missions and research programs associated with particular OSS themes;
- Working with the education community to develop educational programs and products suitable for national distribution;
- Serving as a national archiver/disseminator for education/outreach programs and products;
- Creating and maintaining an accessible directory of education/outreach products and materials.

The “Education Forums can provide the necessary sustained effort and long-term continuity required to effectively work with the education system--a continuity which cannot be provided by short duration missions or activities undertaken as a part of individual research grants

## **OSS Education and Outreach Education Forums**

- Astronomical Search for Origins & Planetary Systems
  - Space Telescope Science Institute/ Carol Christian-Director
- Solar System Exploration
  - Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Steve Saunders-Director
- Structure & Evolution of the Universe
  - Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory/Roy Gould-Director
- Sun-Earth Connection
  - GSFC and University of California at Berkeley/ Rich Vondrak & Isabel Hawkins-Co-Directors

## **OSS Education and Outreach Broker/Facilitators**

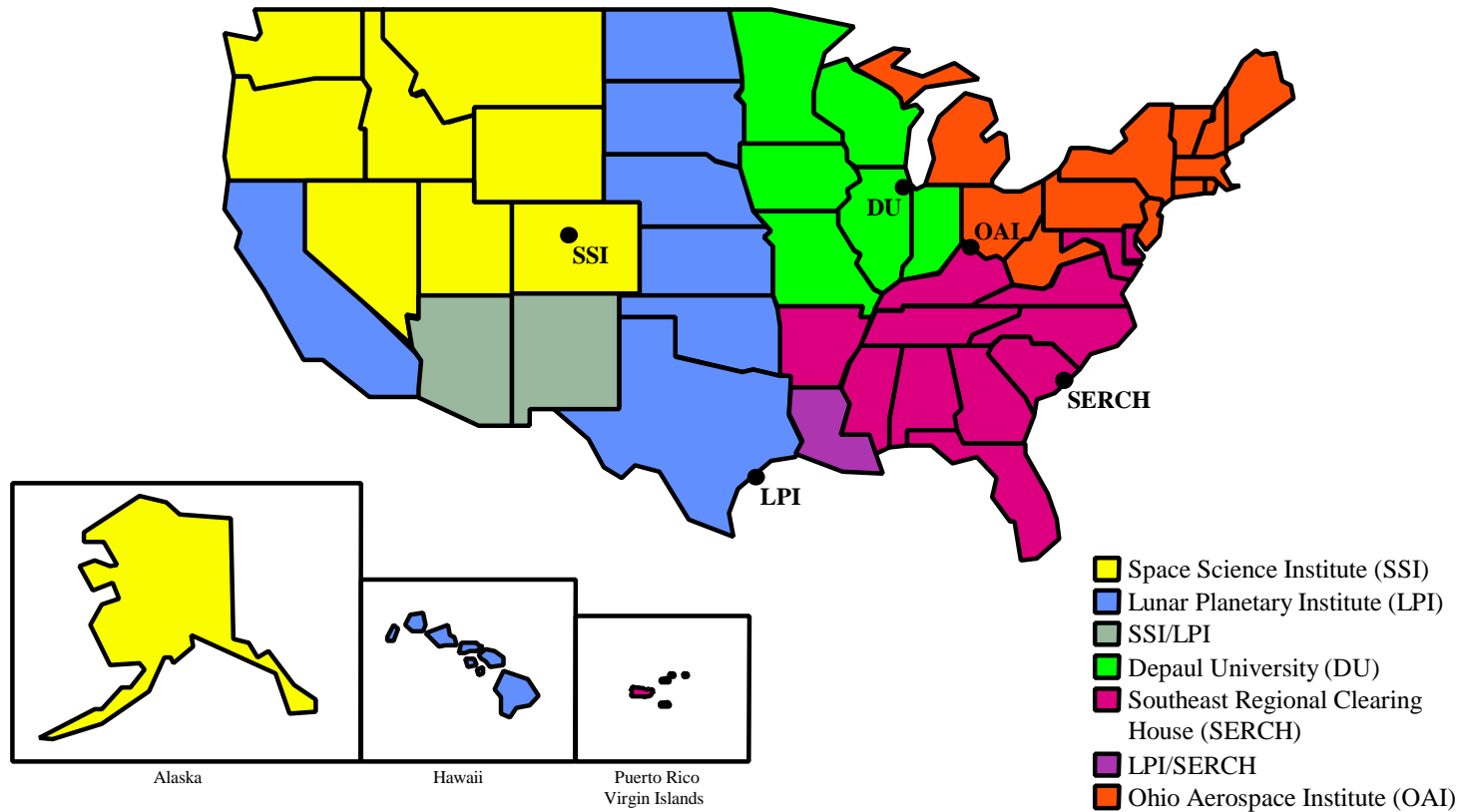
- DePaul University/Carolyn Narasimhan
- Lunar and Planetary Institute/David Black
- Ohio Aerospace Institute/Larry Cooper
- South Carolina Space Grant Consortium/Mitchell Colgan
- Space Science Institute/Cherilynn Morrow

The Broker/Facilitators will: identify and help establish alliances between educators and space scientists; identify and work with space scientists and educators to address outstanding local, state, and regional needs in the formal and informal education communities; facilitate the use of the archiving and dissemination infrastructure; generally help space scientists become more effective participants in education and outreach.

## OSS Broker/Facilitator Regional Responsibility

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## **OSS Education and Outreach Objectives**

- Have a substantial education and outreach program associated with every space science flight mission and research program
- Increase the fraction of the space science community directly involved in education at the pre-college level and in contributing to the broad public understanding of science
- Develop a presence in every state in the U.S. to serve as a focal point for encouraging and assisting scientists and educators to develop partnerships and, in so doing, contribute in a meaningful way to space science education and outreach
- Organize a comprehensive national approach for providing information on and access to the results from space science education and outreach programs
- Continue, and refine and enhance where appropriate, programs dedicated to the development and support of future scientists and engineers
- Provide new opportunities for minority universities in particular and for underserved/underutilized groups in general to compete for and participate in space science missions and research programs
- Develop the tools to evaluate the quality, impact, and effectiveness of space science education and outreach programs